

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the description of Figure 2 on page 7 as follows:

Figure 2 shows the ~~[[30]]~~37 bp fragment used as a mRNA instability sequence in Example 1 (SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30);

Please amend the first paragraph of Example 1 on pages 35 to 36 as follows:

Example 1: Construction of pGL2 Neo30 and stable cell lines

In order to obtain a vector for stable integration into THP-1 cells, a XhoI-SaII fragment of the neo resistant gene (expressing aminoglycoside 3'phosphotransferase) derived from pMC1neoPolyA (Stratagene) was subcloned into the SaII site of pGL2-Control (Promega). This resulting plasmid was called pGL2\_Neo. A ~~[[30bp]]~~37bp fragment (containing three tandem AUUUA motifs and flanking IL-1 $\beta$  3'UTR sequence) obtained by annealing two complementary synthetic oligonucleotides (see Figure 2) was subcloned into pGL2\_Neo using the PflMI restriction site. This results in the luciferase expression vector pGL2\_Neo3O (Fig. 3A). Fig. 2 shows the IL-1 $\beta$  3'UTR sequence containing three tandem AUUUA motifs used for ligation into the PflMI site of pGL2\_Neo. Expression vector pGL2- $\beta$ -galactosidase (Figure 3B) has the lacZ gene driven by the same promoter (SV40) as the luciferase gene in pGL2\_Neo3O and pGL2\_Neo, but plasmid pGL2- $\beta$ -galactosidase does not contain any mRNA instability sequences. The lacZ gene was obtained from a HindIII/BamII restriction digest of pSV-beta-Galactosidase (Promega) and subcloned into the HindIII/BamHII site of pGL2-Control (Promega).